

# Update Report for Rhode Island



Current as of  
July 31, 2001

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Home Page: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>

## Mission

The missions of the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include flood prevention and control, emergency response for natural disasters and national emergencies, environmental remediation and restoration, natural resource management, stream bank and shoreline protection, navigation maintenance and improvement, support to military facilities and installations, and engineering and construction support to other federal agencies. The six New England states cover 66,000 square miles and have 6,100 miles of coastline, 11 deep-water ports, 102 recreational and small commercial harbors, 13 major river basins, and thousands of miles of navigable rivers and streams. The district operates and maintains 31 dams, two hurricane barriers and the Cape Cod Canal. Through its Regulatory program, the district processes about 4,000 applications per year for work in waters and wetlands of the six-state region. We employ about 550 professional civilian employees, with about 400 stationed at our headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts. The other Corps of Engineers employees serve at Corps projects and offices throughout the region.

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## Navigation

**PROVIDENCE RIVER (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs) -** A hydrographic condition survey of the federal navigation project, completed in 1992, showed substantial shoaling in upstream areas of the channel. An Interagency Task Force to preserve shipping in Narragansett Bay and develop a plan for dredging the Providence River channel and other projects was created, with the New England District serving as an advisory participant. The Task Force reported that dredging is needed and created a partnership among state and federal agencies and the many interests involved in dredging.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued for public review in 1998. Public

Hearings on the DEIS were held in October 1998. Close to 300 people spoke at the hearings, with the majority questioning the preferred alternative (an upriver Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) site for disposal of dredged sediments that are unsuitable for open-water disposal, with suitable material being placed at an open water site within Narragansett Bay). Work is currently underway on preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that addresses the questions raised concerning the DEIS and reevaluates the disposal alternatives. Significant additional testing and modeling has been completed to address comments received on the DEIS. *The schedule for the FEIS anticipates completion in August 2001. Assuming the FEIS adequately addresses*

*pertinent concerns, a Record of Decision would be prepared. The earliest that dredging could start would be 2002.*

*We are maximizing public involvement in the process and are meeting regularly with the stakeholder groups. We gave a presentation concerning the project at the Fish Expo in Providence last fall. We also provided updates on the EIS to an inshore fishing group and Save the Bay last winter and to offshore fishing groups in March 2001. A Pre-Decisional Draft FEIS was provided to the cooperating agencies for comment in February. The FEIS will be issued to the public in mid August.*

#### **PORT OF QUONSET-DAVISVILLE (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**

– The Port of Quonset-Davisville is part of the former US Navy construction, refitting and naval air station facility and is now owned and managed by the Rhode Island Economic Development Commission (RIEDC). The Davisville port facilities are located north of the airfield, while the Quonset facilities are located south of the airfield. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 contained a provision calling for a study of potential channel improvements to serve the existing deep-draft piers at Davisville, and even deeper channels to support a proposal by the RIEDC to develop

a new deep-draft containerport at Quonset.

Unlike the Providence River, there is no existing federal navigation project at Quonset-Davisville. The old channels were constructed by the US Navy, but are not part of the Federal Government's civil works infrastructure. The New England District, at the request of the RIEDC, is evaluating whether or not there may be a federal interest in dredging the channels to provide safe navigation access to whatever facilities the state ultimately chooses to construct at both Davisville and Quonset Point. A reconnaissance study describing this initial evaluation will be completed later this year. The Corps involvement at Quonset-Davisville will depend on the state's decisions about the Port's, and Rhode Island's, maritime future.

The district has completed a detailed hydrographic survey of the port, which will be used to prepare cost estimates for channel dredging. The district is also reviewing materials submitted by RIEDC and the town of North Kingston as part of its economic evaluation of the proposed improvements. Feasibility studies, if warranted, including public involvement in an Environmental Impact Study, would begin in the spring 2002, and would require a 50 percent state cost-share.

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## **Regulatory Program**

Department of the Army permits are required from the Corps of Engineers under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps reviews permit applications for work affecting navigable waters under our Section 10 authority and the discharge of fill material into all waters, including inland wetlands, under Section 404. *At the end of March there were 54 active applications for regulated work in Rhode Island. During April, May, and June, 35 new applications were received. Final actions were taken on 34 applications, including two*

*individual permits, 23 general permits, one not required, and no denials. The balance at the end of June was 55 active files.*

**PROGRAMMATIC GENERAL PERMIT** - The New England District has comprehensive Programmatic General Permits (PGPs) in place in each of the six New England states covering work with minimal impact on the aquatic environment. Up to 98 percent of all permits issued in New England are PGPs. The PGPs are based on state thresholds for most categories of environmental impacts, and applicants generally need only file with the state. The federal screening is virtually transparent to

applicants, and the PGP approval, in most of the states, is either included in the state approval letter or mailed simultaneously. Applications appropriately covered under the PGPs are generally approved in less than 30 days. Applicants have commented favorably about the simplicity, predictability and efficiency of the PGPs. The Rhode Island PGP was issued in February 1997 for a period of five years. In April 2001 we held meetings with the state (RI-CRMC and RI-DEM) and federal (EPA, USF&WS, NMFS) agencies to discuss re-issuance procedures. This discussion included inspecting previously issued PGPs, soliciting comments to improve the PGP and assessing cumulative impacts. A Public Notice of the draft PGP will be issued in October 2001 prior to re-issuance of the PGP in early 2002.

**PROVIDENCE RIVER DREDGING PROJECT (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs)** - We are reviewing the request of 20 marine facilities to perform dredging of approximately 500,000 cubic yards of sediments from areas throughout Rhode Island to use the site selected for disposal of material from the federal maintenance dredging project. These facilities and the disposal alternative are being evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the Corps maintenance dredging of the Providence River federal channel. We have contacted all the applicants, letting them know the status of the EIS, and asked them to update their information regarding sampling plans, drawings and to provide a discussion of disposal alternatives. We have received most of the responses and a majority of the applicants seem to prefer the confined aquatic disposal site alternative.

**BREWER MARINE FACILITIES (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs)** - *We are currently reviewing eight marina facilities (Bay Marina, Warwick Cove, Warwick; Brewer's Cove Haven, Bullock Cove, Barrington; Brewer's Sakonnet, Sakonnet River, Portsmouth; Brewer's Yacht Yard, Greenwich Bay, Warwick; Brewer's Wickford*

*Cove Marina, Wickford Harbor, Wickford; C-Lark, Warwick; Greenwich Bay, Warwick; and Carlson's Marina, Warwick) that have requested a Corps permit to dredge (Section 10) and dispose of those sediments off Conimicut Point (Section 404 waters) at Warwick. The combined sediments will be approximately 250,600 cubic yards that will impact approximately 60 acres of sub-tidal zones.*

*The facilities listed above (excluding Greenwich Bay, Carlson's and C-Lark) have been included in the Corps Environmental Impact Statement for the dredging of the Providence River. The new request, to use Conimicut Point, was initiated by the Brewer's facilities as a means of finding a site that could be used quickly for the marina's problems with reduced water depths. This action supports the RI CRMC legislative-driven initiative to identify a number of near shore disposal sites for suitable material from Rhode Island marinas. Conimicut Point is one of the sites identified in the CRMC report.*

The Corps reviewed their proposals and prepared draft suitability determinations indicating the material was suitable for disposal at Conimicut Point. A meeting was held in December 2000, with the federal and state agencies concluding the draft suitability determination needed additional information from the applicants (sediment chemistry testing of the proposed disposal site with the possibility of additional biological testing at their respective sites).

Discussions on the study supplied by RI CRMC. Discussion on dispersal and sediment movement at the disposal site is going on with US National Marine Fisheries. The suitability for Brewer's Cove Haven Marina, Bullocks Point Cove, Barrington and Brewer's Yacht Yard at Cowesett, Greenwich Bay, Warwick, R.I. was forwarded to the federal agencies on April 27, 2001. Our determination was the material is

not suitable without further testing of the proposed disposal site. The remaining three will be evaluated once we have resolved the disposal site issues with federal and state resource agencies. *The state and federal agencies met on June 20, 2001, to discuss the status of testing the reference site. CRMC indicated they are in the process of preparing a Request for Proposal to perform the requested testing of the proposed disposal site and this should be out for bids by early August.*

#### **SAKONNET HARBOR, LITTLE COMPTON**

- Harbor Point Properties has requested a Corps permit to construct a private membership marina that will have the capacity for 96 boats in dry rack storage. The project will require dredging an irregular shaped area of 1,200 square feet to -5.0 feet mean low water, construction of a boat ramp, and the installation of a pile and timber dock and float system. A formal application has been submitted after several meetings with state and federal agencies. The issues of concern included an eelgrass bed, an adjacent breakwater and navigability interference with existing boating uses.

A public notice was issued on March 20, 2001. This generated numerous letters objecting to the project. Most of the comments related to

the private use of the upland club facilities, potential conflicts with existing moorings and impacts to eelgrass beds. We have received numerous requests that we hold a public meeting. We received comments from the state SHPO (voicing no objections) and local harbormaster (stating the project will have no impact on current boating in the area). Senator Chaffee's office asked to be kept informed. An extension of 30 days to the public notice was granted.

*A public meeting was held on June 6, 2001, in Little Compton to discuss the issues mentioned above. Approximately 300 people, giving them the opportunity to voice their concerns, attended this meeting. The Sakonnet Conservancy Group, opposition to the project, made a request for an extension of time, for an independent consultant to prepare a marine traffic study to show how the addition of 93 boats to the area would create a hazard to navigation. This request was granted with the results expected by August 31, 2001.*

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## **Military Support**

#### **REVITALIZATION OF USARC, WARWICK**

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received funding in the amount of \$1,700,000 to award a construction contract for the Pvt. Lloyd S. Cooper, United States Army Reserve Center (USARC) at 885 Sandy Lane, Warwick, R.I. The funds were provided under the Full Facility Revitalization Program. Work consists of a complete facelift both inside and out for the

reserve facility. The interior classrooms will be modernized, offices will be renovated, rest rooms will be rebuilt and the air conditioning and telecommunications systems updated. The exterior will include painting, landscaping and new parking facilities. The scheduled completion date is December 2001.

## Defense Environmental Restoration Program

This Congressionally directed program (PL 98-212) provides for an expanded effort in environmental restoration. It emphasizes the identification, investigation and prompt cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste; unexploded ordnance; buildings and other structures and debris at current and former military facilities. A total of 85 formerly used Defense sites have been identified in Rhode Island. Site and project eligibility investigations at all sites are now complete, including 53 where no work was found to be necessary. Of the 32 sites where work was needed, the following efforts are underway:

### \* QUONSET POINT, DAVISVILLE and NORTH KINGSTOWN (2nd CD).

**AQUA TANK FARM** - *The test results from monitoring well samples indicate that all of the groundwater contaminant concentrations are below the water quality standards that are recommended by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM). In addition, the soil-vapor monitoring test results indicated that we have achieved a greater than 99 percent reduction in TVOC as well. The Corps, in coordination with RI DEM, is in the process of changing monitoring status from long term to short term.*

**Blue Beach Site** - The remedial action project (\$1.7 million) to remove PCB-contaminated soil and pave a contaminated area was completed in the summer of 1999. *Additional PCB contaminated soil was confirmed that same year. Additional sampling to delineate PCB contamination in surface soils was completed in March 2001 and a contract for its remediation was awarded in July 2001.*

**Keiffer Park Site** - *Our feasibility study raised concerns that cost of the proposed remediation technology would be more than available in*

*the budget. In addition, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) has recently raised the priority of remediating this site. The Corps will continue the feasibility study to find a less costly remediation technology and still meet RI DEM's new priority goals.*

**NIKE PR-58 Site.** Remedial Investigations were nearing completion in the spring 1998 when work was put on hold pending the results of the Navy's remedial investigation on the adjacent property. The results of that Navy study indicated that a deep Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compound (CVOC) plume (bedrock zone) exists, and the source location is from the NIKE property. In ongoing coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Navy, it was determined that additional characterization of the deep plume was required. *Drilling and sampling from the summer/fall 2000 sampling round indicates the plume had migrated further than previously anticipated. The Corps has developed the requirements for another round of 14 additional wells to characterize the plume. Working with our own resources supplemented with Navy's contract resources (\$451,000), the Corps has been able to award the full investigative effort needed for the characterization of this site. Physical work will start in August with seismic exploration studies. Drilling and installing the groundwater monitoring well is to begin (per agreement with local residents) after October 1, 2001.*

**Electric Boat Facility, Building 480 Site** - A contract in the amount of \$273,416 for removal of floating petroleum product was awarded in September 2000 to Nobis Engineering, Inc. *Work plans are still being developed. Remediation is expected to commence in September 2001. Work is scheduled for completion by the end of December 2002; at which time a recommendation to deal with any remaining soil and groundwater contamination*



will be made.

**PRP Site** - Woodard and Currand (Wallingford, Conn.) is investigating the Electric Boat (EB) site under a comprehensive cost-sharing agreement between EB and the Corps. The New England District recently amended the cost-sharing agreement with Electric Boat to cover the cost associated with additional site characterization. That site characterization is ongoing and is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2001.

**Devils Foot Road Site** - Award of the first phase of a remediation contract was made in June 2000 to Nobis Engineering, Inc., for \$77,883. The second phase (to include dredging of Fire Pond) was awarded in December 2000 for \$918,000 to Nobis Engineering, Inc. The project is expected to be completed this fiscal year.

**Quarry Disposal Site** - The Baseline Human and Ecological Risk Assessment Report was completed and sent to RI DEM. However, RI DEM has commented that the surface water pathway, which was not addressed in the report, may need to be addressed. This is being coordinated with RI DEM.

**Atlantic Shellfish Site** - R.F. Weston is presently working on a remedial investigation to clarify the type and extent of contamination on site. Work is on hold, however, pending discussions with RI DEM, due to low priority and lack of funding. Work will resume when priorities and funding allow.

**Camp Avenue Dump Site** - The New England District is conducting long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water, following the installation of a soil cap in the spring 1998. Since then, quarterly rounds of long-term monitoring have been conducted and data reports are sent to RI DEM and Rhode Island Economic Development Corp. (RI EDC). Biannual monitoring will continue until the spring

2003. The Corps is working with RI EDC on the Environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR).

**OTHER INVESTIGATIONS** - RI DEM requested that we expand our investigation at the former Newport Naval Base in **Newport (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** to include additional sites they believe qualify under the FUDS program for remediation. At present only an HTRW project has been approved for sampling of soil at the STP Sludge Drying Bed at the Melville Marine Industries.

The Engineering Evaluation of Contamination Phase II for Gould Island, **Narragansett (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**, was initiated, but has been put on hold pending discussion with RI DEM on the scope of further investigations. Work will continue as priorities and funding allow.

Work at Hope Island, **Jamestown (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** has been put on hold pending RI DEM determination of what remaining work needs to be accomplished to achieve site closure.

*A supplemental Phase II Study of sites 2, 4 and 6 has been completed at **Charlestown (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)** Naval Auxiliary Landing Field and was forwarded to the state for review. Presently, discussions are on going with the state to determine the disposition of these three sites and the effort remaining for closure. A final supplemental Phase II Study of site 8 has also been performed and was provided to the state for their review. Remediation of site 8 is anticipated during fiscal year 2002, subject to the availability of funding.*

Tank removal work at the Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, **Westerly (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**, and the Escoheag Naval Recreation Camp, **Exeter (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**, along with demolition work at NETC **Newport (1<sup>st</sup> CD)**; Dutch Island, **Jamestown (1<sup>st</sup> CD)**; Fort Nathaniel Greene, **Narragansett (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**; and **Charlestown (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)** Naval Auxiliary Landing Field will be performed when

priorities and funding allow.

*At the request of RI DEM, an additional site investigation at Nike PR-79, **Foster (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**, was conducted. All water wells were again sampled and the results indicate that the contaminate of concern (COC) –TCE- is non detectable in the private well and below the RI DEM standard for GA aquifers (5 ppb) in the wells on the former Nike Site. Work is continuing, includingh investigating the two (2) new private wells being established adjacent to the site for the COC and doing a geophysical investigation of the underlying rock. It is anticipated that the investigation will be complete by the end of September.*

**Prudence Island** – The first round of groundwater long-term monitoring was conducted in early June 2001. Results are currently being evaluated. Monitoring is expected for approximately two years.

\* **REMEDIATION is underway** at the following locations:

#### **First District**

**Hope Island, Jamestown**  
**Prudence Island**

#### **Second District**

**Quonset Point, Blue Beach**  
**Quonset Point Atlantic Shellfish, North Kingstown** <sup>1</sup>  
**Quonset Point Aqua Tank Farm, North Kingstown**

<sup>1</sup> Closure of an oil/water separator system, cleaning a catch basin and trench, and removal of a transformer platform and pad is complete under a \$45,120 purchase order. Additional investigations for PCB contamination are contemplated.

\* **REMEDIATION is complete** for the following:

#### **First District**

Army Reserve Center in **Lincoln**, \$24,310

Nike Site, **Bristol**, \$107,690  
Fort Adams, **Newport**, \$1,268,176

Beavertail Point Naval Communications Station, **Jamestown**, \$12,770  
**Prudence and Rose islands, Portsmouth and Newport**, \$363,000  
Fort Church, **Little Compton** <sup>1</sup>  
Fort Wetherill, **Newport** <sup>1</sup>  
Sachuest Point, **Newport** <sup>1</sup>  
Rose Island, **Newport** <sup>1</sup>  
Fort Wetherill, **Jamestown** <sup>2</sup>  
Sachuest Point, **Newport** <sup>2</sup>  
Fort Getty, **Jamestown** <sup>2</sup>  
Beavertail Point Naval Communications Station,  
**Jamestown** <sup>2</sup>  
Prospect Hill Fire Control Station, **Jamestown** <sup>2</sup>  
Camp Avenue Dump Site, **Davisville** (\$546,138)  
Hull Cove Fire Control Station, **Jamestown**

#### **Second District**

T.F. Green Airport, **Warwick**, \$60,773  
Nike Site PR-79, **Foster**, \$92,150  
Devil's Foot Road, **Quonset Point**, \$334,000  
**Quonset Point NAS**, Nike PR-58, \$148,010  
Nike Site, **Coventry**, \$142,575  
Building, pier and pool demolition, **North Kingstown**, \$530,000

<sup>1</sup> These four projects for the removal of tanks were accomplished under the terms of a \$44,152 contract.

<sup>2</sup> These five activities, involving demolition and debris removal, were accomplished under the terms of a \$1,218,639 contract.

In addition, remediation contracts, totaling \$7.5 million, have been completed for several projects at **Quonset Point Naval Air Station (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)** and **Charlestown (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**. These efforts included the removal of a total of 124 tanks, ranging in size from 1,000 to 25,000 gallons, cleaning and grouting of three miles of pipeline, and removal of 20 transformers.

## **Work for the Environmental Protection Agency**

The New England District provides support to EPA Region I's Superfund program. We are currently working at the following sites in Rhode Island.

**CENTREDALE MANOR, NORTH PROVIDENCE (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - The Centredale Manor Restoration Superfund Site consists of property located along Route 44 in North Providence and a section of the adjacent Woonasquatucket River and its associated ponds and floodplain. A chemical company and a drum reclamation company previously occupied the property, which were in operation from the 1940s to the early 1970s. All buildings on the property were demolished in the mid-1970s. Roadway, parking lots and two high-rise residential buildings that were constructed in the late 1970s and early 1980s currently cover the property. Elevated levels of dioxin, PCBs, chlorinated solvents and other compounds have been found in soils at the property and in soils and sediments downstream of the property.

The New England District recently designed a temporary cap for contaminated soils on the property and completed a flood inundation and hydraulic study at the site. Currently, the Corps is providing technical and contractual assistance for Baseline Fish Consumption and Ecological Risk Assessment scheduled for completion in calendar year 2002. This information will be used to support a cleanup effort to be documented in EPA's Record of Decision. The Corps will also provide technical oversight during design and construction of a non-time critical removal action to be performed at the Allendale Dam and adjacent residential properties in calendar year 2001/2002.

**PICILLO FARM, COVENTRY (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)** - The Picillo Farm site is located in a rural residential area of the town of Coventry. A 7.5-acre area on the farm served as an illegal disposal

location for a variety of drummed and bulk liquid wastes in the mid-1970s. In the early 1980s, EPA and the state removed 10,000 drums of waste from the site. In 1988, stockpiled soil contaminated with PCBs was also removed by EPA and the state. High groundwater contamination still exists in an approximately 35-acre plume.

Under the 1993 EPA Record of Decision, contaminated soil will be treated via in-situ soil vapor extraction. Groundwater will be extracted and treated with air stripping and ultraviolet/chemical oxidation. At EPA's request, the Corps is providing oversight of the Picillo PRP Group's design and construction cleanup effort. The installation of the soil vapor extraction wells is complete, and a groundwater treatment plant has been constructed. Testing of the treatment plant is ongoing. The Corps continues to provide technical assistance to EPA as requested.

**SMITHFIELD (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - The 15-acre Davis Liquid Waste Superfund Site was used during the 1970s as a disposal location for various hazardous liquid and solid chemical wastes. Liquid wastes accepted at this site, both in drums and in bulk tank trucks, were dumped directly into unlined pits in the ground. From these sources, contamination of surrounding soils, surface water and groundwater occurred and still persists today.

In 1987, the EPA Regional Administrator signed the Record of Decision for the site. The selected remedy includes excavation of an estimated 25,000 cubic yards of waste and contaminated soils and treatment on-site in a mobile thermal treatment facility; construction of an on-site water treatment plant for active restoration of the overburden and bedrock aquifers contaminated with volatile organic compounds; and construction of an alternative water supply (waterline) to residents affected by contaminants migrating off-site in groundwater into private wells.



The alternative water supply was constructed in two phases by EPA, with the New England District managing the construction of the second phase that was completed in 1998. The potentially responsible parties are currently conducting a remedial action that addresses

the contaminated soil. This work began in October 1999 and is expected to continue through midyear 2001. The New England District is providing construction oversight of this activity. The groundwater phase is currently on hold at the direction of EPA.

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## Planning Assistance to States

**TURNER RESERVOIR, EAST PROVIDENCE (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** –The city of East Providence requested the New England District to evaluate the potential of the Turner Reservoir and Central Pond wellfields as the city's long-term backup water supply. The study also

investigated the suitability of permitting recreational use at the Turner Reservoir. *The \$84,000 study, which is cost shared equally with the city of East Providence, began in June 1999, and the report was sent to the city for its use in February 2001.*

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## Flood Plain Management Services

**ROUTE 114 DRAINAGE STUDY, WARREN & BRISTOL, RI (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** – The New England District was requested by the town of Warren to investigate flooding impacting Route 114. The drainage area encompasses portions of

*the towns of Warren and Bristol. The study will analyze existing conditions and evaluate potential solutions to alleviate the flooding problem. The study was initiated in November 2000 and a draft report sent to the town of Warren in July 2001.*

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## Special Studies/Projects

**ALLENDALE DAM, NORTH PROVIDENCE (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - The Army Corps of Engineers was authorized by Section 358 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (PL 102-508) to repair Allendale Dam on the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence. The dam was naturally breached in November 1991. However, EPA is investigating the Centredale Manor site upstream under Superfund authority. Solution to that problem will guide long-term consideration at Allendale Dam. Repair of the dam and remediation of the contamination is now being coordinated

with EPA and the city of North Providence as part of the Centredale Manor Superfund Project. (see earlier entry)

**ALLINS COVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT, BARRINGTON (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - The New England District has initiated an investigation to restore degraded coastal wetlands at the mouth of Allins Cove. The project will also investigate erosion of the shoreline along Byway Road. The Corps North Atlantic Division approved a Preliminary Restoration Report, and the feasibility study began in March 2000. The feasibility study is scheduled for completion in the fall 2001. The

Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council is the nonfederal sponsor and will share in the feasibility study cost estimated at \$160,000.

**BLACKSTONE RIVER** - A reconnaissance investigation to assess environmental restoration of the Blackstone River was completed in 1997. The \$400,000 federally funded reconnaissance focused on ecological needs in the Blackstone River watershed. The study identified the federal interest in environmental restoration plans for the Blackstone River, determined the costs of constructing the proposed actions, and assessed the level of interest of potential cost-sharing sponsors for further, more detailed, investigations. *A Feasibility Cost Share Agreement was signed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in May 1999 and work in Massachusetts is ongoing. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management recently sent us a letter declining state participation in the feasibility study, therefore no further work is anticipated in Rhode Island.*

**BOYD'S MARSH (TOWN POND) SALT MARSH RESTORATION, PORTSMOUTH (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - *The New England District received approval in February 1998 to initiate a Section 1135 feasibility study for the restoration of up to 23 acres of salt marsh in the wildlife sanctuary at Boyd's Marsh. Boyd's Marsh is owned by the state of Rhode Island and managed by its Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The restoration would provide meaningful and productive ecological improvements to an area that can readily support increased populations of marine life. The sponsor has reviewed the draft project modification report and we are in the process of reviewing their comments.*

**COASTAL AMERICA** - The Coastal America Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) has focused its efforts on habitat restoration and, in particular, restoration of tidally

constricted salt marshes. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to formally document the Coastal America partners' commitment to restoration projects in Rhode Island. The Corps has assisted these efforts at several sites throughout the state: the Galilee Bird Sanctuary Saltmarsh Restoration project has the support of numerous Coastal America partners; the Corps provided technical assistance to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's saltmarsh restoration evaluation for Sachuest Point; and the NERIT is also supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to restore the Ninigret Sanctuary by working with the Army Reserves to remove asphalt from the abandoned airfield. There are several Corps General Investigation studies underway to support habitat restoration as well.

**FOX POINT HURRICANE BARRIER (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs)** – Congress appropriated \$1,950,000 in the 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (WRDA) to the New England District for repairing the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier. The cost share agreement is 65 percent federal, 35 percent nonfederal. Eligible repairs are to be in accordance with a Condition Survey and Technical Assessment conducted by the district in 1998. *Repair costs incurred by the city of Providence since 1998 are eligible for reimbursement by the federal government. The city continues to perform eligible repairs, subject to review by the New England District, and will continue to do so for the next two years. Once the draft Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) has been approved by the ASA (CW), a payment will be made to the city of Providence for reimbursement of eligible repairs performed from April 1998 to present. Execution of the PCA has been delayed until October 2001 to accommodate required revisions to the PCA. Subsequent payments for eligible work will be made on a quarterly basis. The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier provides critical flood protection to the state capital and has prevented loss of life and*

*property time and again since its construction in 1966.*

**INDIA POINT BRIDGE, SEEKONK RIVER, PROVIDENCE (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs)** - Authorization to demolish and remove the center span of the India Point Railroad Bridge was originally contained in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and later reauthorized at a higher cost in WRDA 1996. The Coast Guard declared the bridge a hazard to navigation and its owner, the city of Providence, subject to fine. The work includes demolition of the bridge center span and removal of the sunken tugboat GASPEE. Revenue derived from the sale of scrap from the bridge will be credited toward the nonfederal share. The non-federal sponsor, the city of Providence, must share 50 percent of the cost of the work. *The New England District awarded a contract to Great Northern Site Corporation of Everett, Mass. in the amount of \$490,000 on May 10, 2001. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of September 2001.*

**LONSDALE DRIVE-IN WETLANDS RESTORATION, LINCOLN (1<sup>st</sup> CD)** - New England District initiated a Section 206 wetlands restoration project in 1998 for this former 41-acre drive-in site. Conceptual plans for the site were forwarded to interested parties in 1999. A new alternative was added for consideration in response to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments in 2000. *The final report was distributed in July 2001. Construction of this project is currently expected to occur in early spring 2002. Plans and Specs will be developed starting August 2001.*

**NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM** - The New England District has been requested to provide technical assistance to the Implementation Committee for the National Estuary Program's Narragansett Bay Project (NBP). The NBP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is complete. Goals of the

National Estuary Program include identifying nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution, development or overuse; promoting comprehensive planning for and conservation and management of these waters; encouraging the preparation of management plans; and enhancing the coordination of estuarine research. Our activities include attendance at committee meetings on water resource planning and transfer of data to the NEP Geographic Information System for approval.

**RHODE ISLAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CDs)** - In January 1999, the New England District initiated a reconnaissance investigation to examine opportunities for environmental restoration of degraded salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, and anadromous fisheries. The area under study includes the Pawcatuck, Pawtuxet, Moshassuck, Ten Mile and Woonasquatucket river watersheds and the shoreline of Narragansett Bay. A Section 905(b) analysis, identifying ecosystem restoration opportunities, was prepared, drafts of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) and Project Study Plan (PSP) that detailed the scope and cost of further feasibility studies at identified restoration sites were provided to Rhode Island officials. Based on this information, the state decided to pursue studies to restore anadromous fish passage along the Ten Mile River. A FCSA and PSP for this effort was negotiated with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental (RI DEM), and the Agreement was executed on March 15, 2001. A media event and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 25, 2001. The feasibility study is underway with initial efforts concentrating on collecting basic data at the three dams on the lower Ten Mile River.

**RHODE ISLAND REGION LONG TERM DISPOSAL SITE EVALUATION** - April 6, 2001, a Notice of Intent (NOI) regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to consider the designation of one or more long

term dredge material sites in the region of Rhode Island Sound was published in the Federal Register. *The NOI included information on two scoping meetings, which were held in May 2001. The first scoping meeting was held at White's of Westport, in Westport, Mass. The second meeting was held at the Lighthouse Inn, in Narragansett, Rhode Island. This project is a joint effort between the Region I office of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the New England District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Collection of field samples will be performed in the summer 2001.*

**RHODE ISLAND SOUTH COAST INVESTIGATION** - The Rhode Island South Coast Reconnaissance Study, begun in 1997, identified several opportunities for environmental restoration between Watch Hill in **Westerly and Narragansett (2<sup>nd</sup> CD)**. These included restoring valuable aquatic

habitat in the form of eelgrass, fish and shellfish in several salt ponds; improving nesting bird habitat through nourishment of the barrier beaches; restoring fish passage in various locations; and restoring tidal flow to a constricted salt marsh. The \$880,000 feasibility investigation, initiated in 1998, is being cost-shared 50-50 between the federal government and the local sponsor (the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council). *Specifically, the study examined the feasibility of restoring eelgrass habitat to the flood tidal shoals in Ninigret, Winnapaug, and Quonochontaug ponds as well as restoring anadromous fish passage to Cross Mills Pond. A draft feasibility report is currently undergoing internal and environmental agency review. Release of the draft to the public is expected by late summer.*

